

are unveiling an important proposal—sponsored by over 100 Representatives—to address the child care needs of working families. Like my child care initiative, this new package significantly increases child care subsidies for poor children, provides greater tax relief to help low- and middle-income families pay for child care, creates a tax credit for businesses that provide child care to their employees, increases after-school opportunities for children, promotes early learning, and improves child care quality.

I believe that by continuing to work together and by taking the best proposals from both sides of the aisle, we can achieve legislation that helps Americans fulfill their responsibilities as workers, and even more importantly, their responsibilities as parents. I welcome this important contribution from House Democrats, and I urge all Members of Congress to come together this year to improve child care for our Nation's working families.

**Message to the Congress  
Transmitting a Report on the  
National Emergency With Respect to  
Weapons of Mass Destruction**

*June 9, 1998*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

As required by section 204 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1703(c)) and section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1641(c)), I transmit herewith a 6-month report on the national emergency declared by Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994, in response to the threat posed by the proliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons ("weapons of mass destruction") and of the means of delivering such weapons.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
June 9, 1998.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting  
the Inter-American Convention  
Against the Illicit Manufacturing of  
and Trafficking in Firearms,  
Ammunition, Explosives, and Other  
Related Materials With  
Documentation**

*June 9, 1998*

*To the Senate of the United States:*

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (the "Convention"), adopted at the Special Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) at Washington on November 13, 1997. The Convention was signed by the United States and 28 other OAS Member States on November 14, 1997, at the OAS Headquarters in Washington. So far, 31 States have signed the Convention and one (Belize) has ratified it. In addition, for the information of the Senate, I transmit the report of the Department of State with respect to the Convention.

The Convention is the first multilateral treaty of its kind in the world. The provisions of the Convention are explained in the accompanying report of the Department of State. The Convention should be an effective tool to assist in the hemispheric effort to combat the illicit manufacturing and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials, and could also enhance the law enforcement efforts of the States Parties in other areas, given the links that often exist between those offenses and organized criminal activity, such as drug trafficking and terrorism.

The Convention provides for a broad range of cooperation, including extradition, mutual legal assistance, technical assistance, and exchanges of information, experiences, and training, in relation to the offenses covered under the treaty. The Convention also imposes on the Parties an obligation to criminalize the offenses set forth in the treaty if

they have not already done so. The Convention will not require implementing legislation for the United States.

This treaty would advance important U.S. Government interests, and would enhance hemispheric security by obstructing the illicit flow of weapons to criminals such as terrorists and drug traffickers. In addition, ratification of this Convention by the United States would be consistent with, and give impetus to, the active work being done by the United States Government and this subject in other fora, such as the United Nations, the P-8 Group, and the OAS Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD).

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Convention, and that it give its advice and consent to ratification.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
June 9, 1998.

**Message to the Congress  
Transmitting the Proposed  
“International Crime Control Act of  
1998”**

*June 9, 1998*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am transmitting for immediate consideration and enactment the “International Crime Control Act of 1998” (ICCA). The ICCA is one of the foremost initiatives highlighted in my Administration’s International Crime Control Strategy, which I announced on May 12, 1998. The proposed legislation would substantially improve the ability of U.S. law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute international criminals, seize their money and assets, intercept them at our borders, and prevent them from striking at our people and institutions.

Advances in technology, the resurgence of democracy, and the lowering of global political and economic barriers have brought increased freedom and higher living standards to countries around the world, including our own. However, these changes have also provided new opportunities for international criminals trafficking in drugs, firearms, weapons of mass destruction, and human beings,

and engaging in fraud, theft, extortion, and terrorism.

In response to these formidable threats to the American people, I have directed the Departments of Justice, State, and the Treasury, as well as the Federal law enforcement and intelligence communities, to intensify their ongoing efforts to combat international crime. In order to carry out this mandate most effectively, the many departments and agencies involved need the additional tools in the proposed ICCA that will enhance Federal law enforcement authority in several key areas, close gaps in existing laws, and facilitate global cooperation against international crime.

The ICCA’s provisions focus on seven essential areas to improve the Federal Government’s ability to prevent, investigate, and punish international crimes and criminals:

(1) *Investigating and Punishing Acts of Violence Committed Against Americans Abroad*

- Broadens existing criminal law to authorize the investigation and punishment of organized crime groups who commit serious criminal acts against Americans abroad. (Current law generally requires a link to terrorist activity.)
- Provides jurisdiction in the United States over violent acts committed abroad against State and local officials while in other countries on official Federal business.

(2) *Strengthening U.S. Air, Land, and Sea Borders*

- Increases penalties for smugglers who endanger Federal law enforcement officials seeking to interdict their activities, introducing the Federal criminal offense of “portrunning” (i.e., evading border inspections, often through the use of force).
- Addresses gaps in current law relating to maritime drug interdiction operations, introducing the criminal offense of failing to stop (“heave to”) a vessel at the direction of a Coast Guard or other Federal law enforcement official seeking to board that vessel.
- Provides clear authority to search international, outbound letter-class mail if